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national epic where he has developed the mode of courage of which our pioneers have explored and subdued the plains and thus has inspired in Americans that love of the land and its heros by whereby national traditions are built and kept. How revalent those words sound today. In both word and deed Dr. John Neihardt has richly shown the love and warmth and faith and courage so needed in today's world. Dr. Neihardt was a humanitarian and indeed one who loves his fellow man. He had a greatness of heart and an understanding that equaled his greatness in poetic arts. While his avid livelong pursuit of knowledge made him a nonconformist thinker far in advance of his contemporaries. He was a wise man and a philosopher as well as a scholar. Time steeped him in learning and wisdom so that young and old for near and far came to sit at his feet and gather his thoughts and listen to him. Dr. Neihardts work brought meaning to many people. To those at Bancroft, Nebraska who watched him in his early highly productive years and whose children and grand children keep alive and preserve the places in which he worked. To those old friends who watched and loved his work and sustained him through his 92 years and to those thousands of people of who his great works have communicated the spirit and beauty of his wisdom. To individuals like you and me who have been honored to know him every so slightly to share his beautiful work and to a occasionally see and feel the spark of eternity that was always burning in those most special of God's people. Dr. Neihardt was Poet Laureate was longer than any other man. Tennyson had the longest record of 46 years compared to Neihardt's 52 years. Today we honor the birthday of Dr. John Neihardt and the Legislature in its legislation or resolution which was introduced by Senator Richendifer and a signed by all members of the legislature states in part, Dr. Neihardt was a man blessed with the extraordinary qualities of insight, wisdom, understanding, logic and love and was able to direct these qualities in such a manner that ultimate reality was achieved in his writing as well as his life.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Next we bring to the microphone for a few brief remarks Dr. Lyle B. Edgerman who is president of the John G. Neihardt foundation. Dr. Edgerman.

DR. EDGERMAN: Governor Exon, members of the Legislature, the board of the directors area representatives who are here from all over the state and members of the John G. Neihardt foundation who cover most of the 50 states wish to thank the members of the Nebraska State Legislature for the recognition that it has given Dr. Neihardt over the years, past and present. Poet Laureate from Nebraska for more than 52 years our state has had the honored of the longest lived poet laureate of the world and we know that this honor will reflect in the cultural levels that we have in the state of Nebraska. Flaming Rainbo, given him by Black Elk said of him that he is a word sender and as the rainbow covers the sky of the world so do his works. They fall like rain on the garden of the world and where they fall they leave it a little greener. Now the hands and voice are stilled but his words will linger on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Next to be heard from is Senator Blair K. Richendifer the state Senator from District 16. Senator Richendifer.